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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/938,748	DRAKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tianjie Chen	2652	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/29/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. The drawings filed on 23 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/29/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-16 are under consideration and found allowable.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 6, line 4; --to-- has been inserted after "equal."

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Claim 1: as the closest reference, Choo et al (US 6,542,330) shows a disc drive spindle motor assembly including: a cylindrical motor spindle hub having an upwardly extending rim, an information storage disc 27 mounted on the motor spindle hub; and an annular disc clamp securing the information storage disc to the motor spindle hub, the clamp having

an annular web portion with a series of inwardly extending tabs fitted around the motor spindle hub rim contacting an upwardly extending surface of the rim to center the disc clamp on the cylindrical hub, the tabs projecting from an inner edge of the web portion toward the rim; and Fig. 4 shows that each tab has a rounded edges such that radial separation between each tab has an upwardly extending surface of the rim **decreases** as the web portion of the disc is being secured to radially extending surface of the motor spindle hub; **but fails to show** each tab has a rounded edges such that radial separation between each tab has an upwardly extending surface of the rim **increases** as the web portion of the disc is being secured to radially extending surface of the motor spindle hub.

- Claim 9: as the closest reference, Choo et al (US 6,542,330) shows a disc clamp for securing an information storage disc to a motor spindle hub 22 in a disc drive, the disc clamp including: a web portion having inner edge with a series of equidistantly spaced inwardly extending tabs, each tab having a chamfered top edge; and a peripheral ring portion for contacting a top surface of an information storage disc; and Fig. 4 shows that the radial separation between the chamfered top edge of each tab and a upwardly extending surface of the motor spindle hub **decreases** as the web portion is being secured to the motor spindle hub; **but fails to show** that the radial separation between the chamfered top edge of each tab and a upwardly extending surface of the motor spindle hub **increases** as the web portion is being secured to the motor spindle hub.

- Claim 14: the recited means, which invokes 35 U.S.C. § 112 (6), should be considered as the embodiment disclosed in the specification and drawings, which includes, at least, all the limitations recited in claim 1, and allowed for the same reason as claim 1 as stated above.
- Applicant declares that in the device with above features, the curved face on each tab ensures that the spindle shaft engagement face of the tab does not contact the cylindrical wall of the rim portion of the motor spindle hub, keeping the disc clamp centered around the spindle shaft and motor spindle hub and avoiding any debris formation from contact between the disc clamp and the motor spindle hub (Specification, p. 8 lines 17-21).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7499. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2652

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chen Tongfei 12/20/2004
TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER